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Ray Is Flown to U.S. For Trial in Slaying

Guard Heavy During Trip To Memphis

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray, handcuffed and wearing what appeared to be a bullet-proof vest, was whisked into the Shelby County Jail before dawn today to await trial on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King.

Ray was placed in his cell at the jail at 4:34 a.m. (5:34 a.m. EDT), 46 minutes after he arrived at the nearby Memphis Naval Air Station aboard a U.S. Air Force jet transport on a secrecy-shrouded trip from London. He had left London about midnight (6 p.m. CDT) so the entire trip took about 1½ hours.

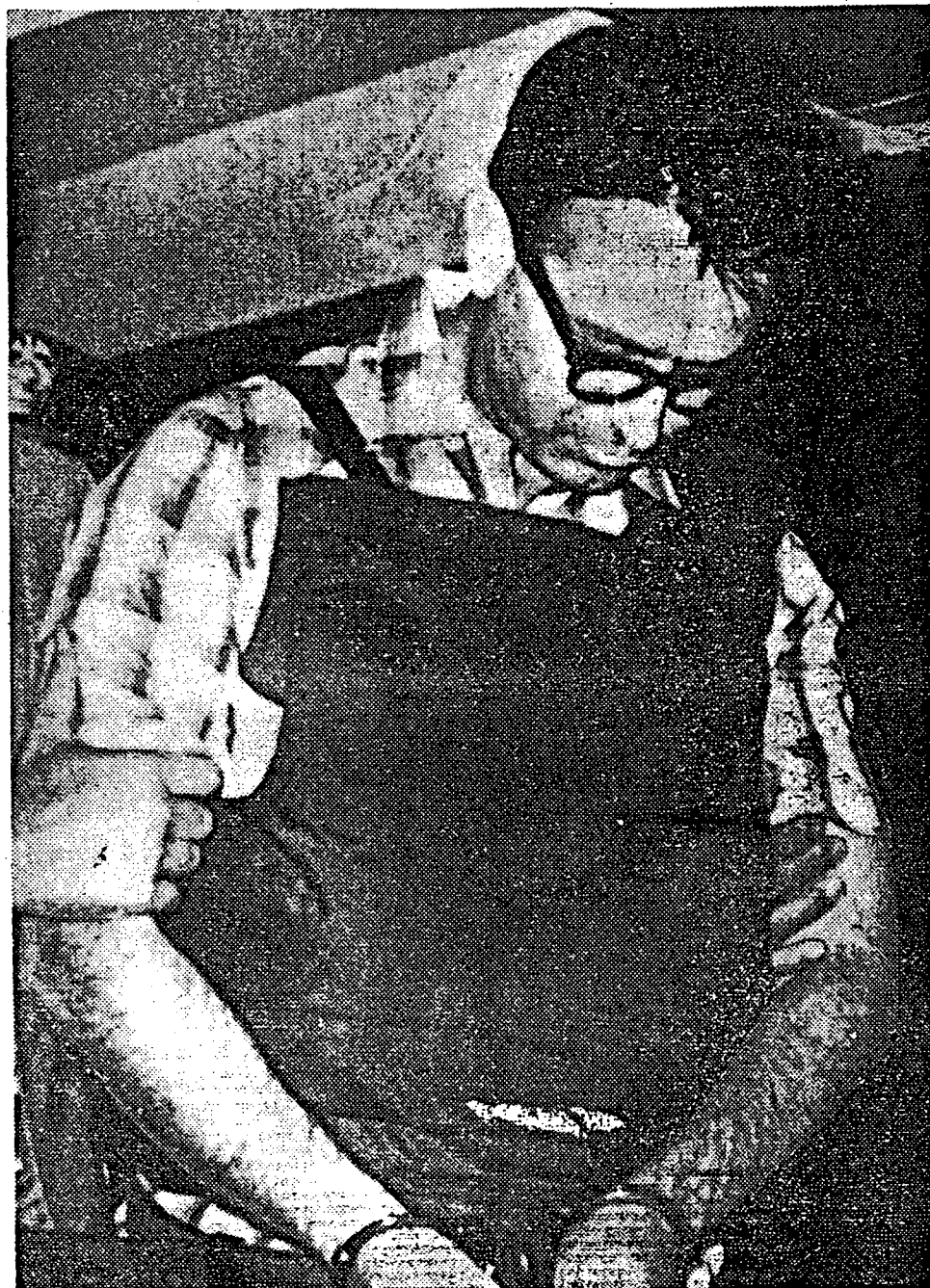
From the Navy base—where he was handed over from federal custody to Shelby County Sheriff's officials aboard the plane 14 minutes after it landed—a blue-and-white prison van, surrounded by half a dozen police cars and an equal number of motorcycles, roared into the parking lot behind the jail building at 4:29 a.m.

Throughout the night, deputies and city policemen had guarded the jail and court complex. A large bus backed across a driveway and 10 sheriff's deputies carrying riot guns this morning blocked the jail entrance, obscuring newsmen's view as Ray was hustled in.

No newsmen was allowed to see Ray, but Sheriff William Morris distributed photographs of the prisoner showing him dressed in what the sheriff told a news conference was "protective gear."

He appeared to be dressed in a bullet-proof vest and he was handcuffed to a heavy leather belt.

The sheriff said Criminal



James Earl Ray is led into Shelby County Jail.

United Press International

For Trial in Slaying

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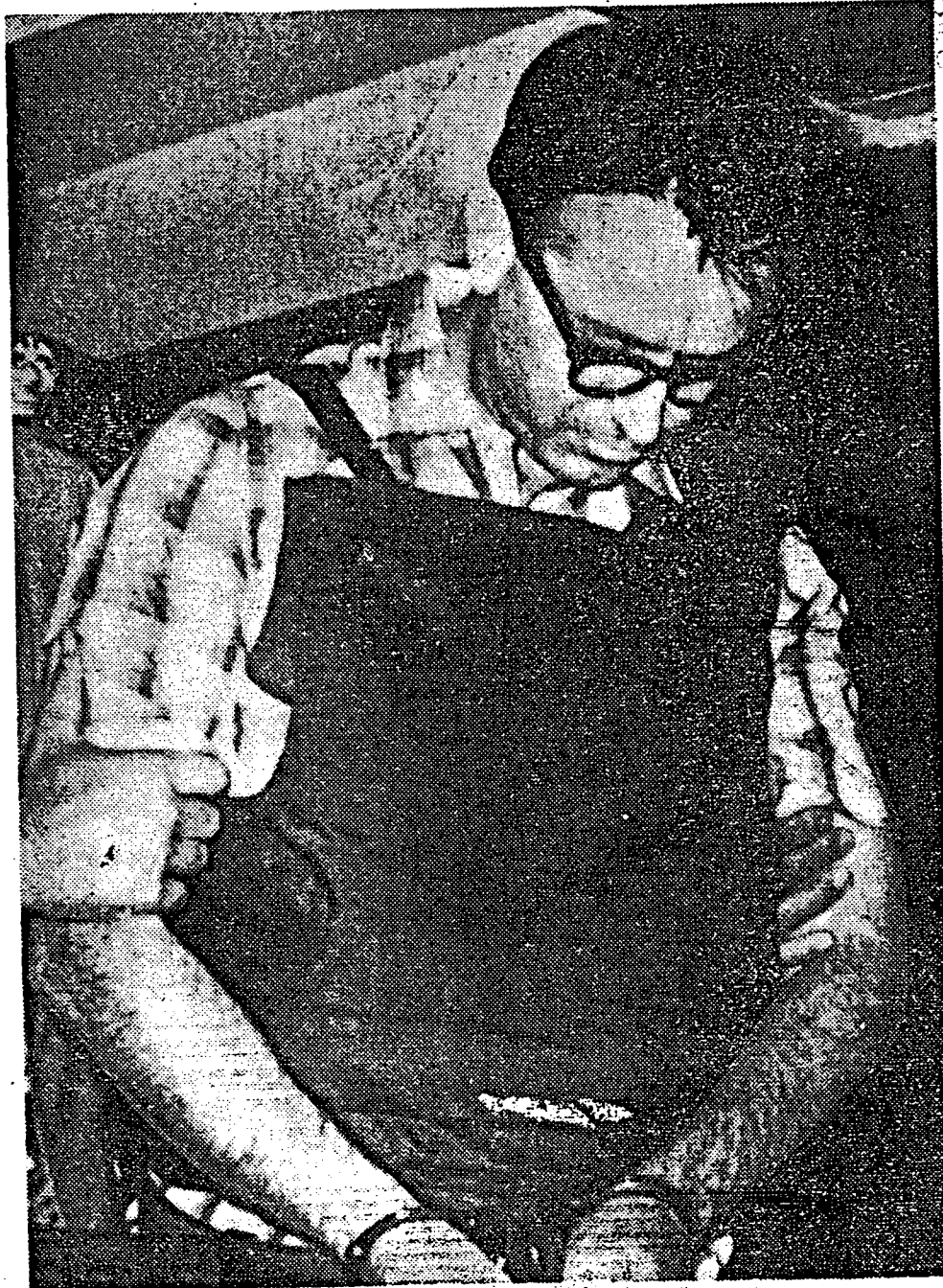
He appeared to be dressed in a bullet-proof vest and he was handcuffed to a heavy leather belt.

The sheriff said Criminal Court Judge W. Preston Battle has been chosen to hear the murder trial, but "no courtroom has been selected for the trial yet." He added that no date for arraignment on the murder indictment has been set.

The trial is expected to be held in the fall.

There was speculation that Ray may be tried in a basement courtroom at the jail-courthouse building so that he would never have to leave the building.

See RAY, Page A-6



James Earl Ray is led into Shelby County Jail.

—United Press International

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Police maintain a heavy guard behind the Shelby County jail at Memphis, Tenn., after

James Earl Ray's arrival early today. Ray was in the white armored van at far left.

RAY

Suspect Flown to Memphis

Continued From Page A-1

Officials in London disclosed that Ray left aboard a U.S. Air Force jet transport from the World War II base at Lakenheath just north of Cambridge. Supt. Thomas Butler of Scotland Yard, who arrested Ray on June 8, escorted him from Wandsworth Jail to Lakenheath, where he was turned over to FBI agents escorting Ray back.

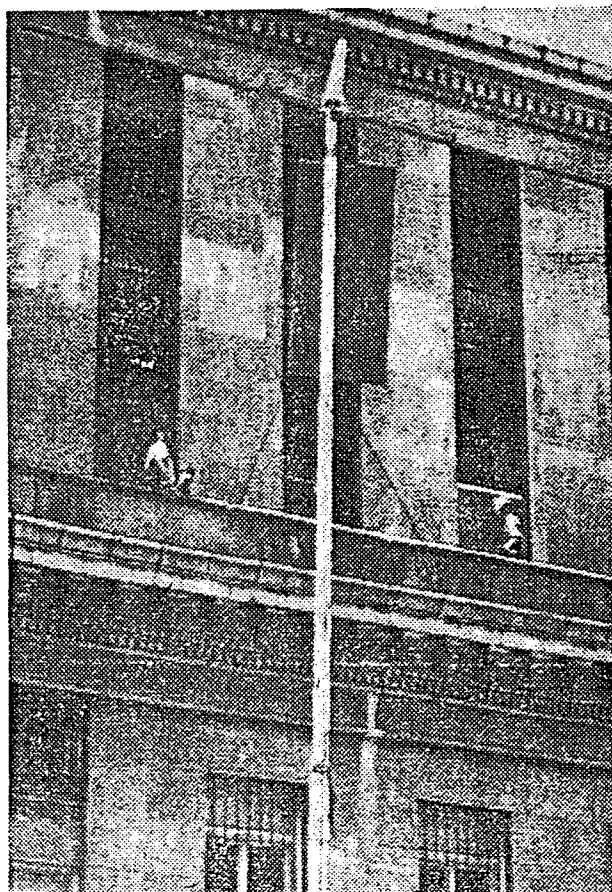
In Washington, FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover said the international transfer of Ray was accomplished "without incident."

Attorney Objects

Ray's American lawyer, Arthur J. Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., was refused permission to speak to Ray once he was turned over to U.S. authorities. Hanes' request to accompany Ray on the flight was denied.

Hanes, who took a commercial flight to New York today and told newsmen at London airport he would protest "this bizarre affair—the spiriting away of a man in the night."

"For all I know," said Hanes, "my man could still be in Britain. I knew at 9:30 last night that a move was imminent. I was told that I should appreciate that I could not travel with my client. I said I most certainly did



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Report on Holdup

As Ray left Britain, the London Daily Sketch reported that his fingerprints had been matched with those of a gunman who robbed a London bank a few days before he was arrested June 8. The report had circulated in London for several weeks, but British law bans the publication of such information involving a man facing legal proceedings.

Scotland Yard officials refused to confirm or deny the report, which said a gunman on June 4 thrust a "give me cash" note at a teller in the Trustee Savings Bank in London's Fulham District and escaped with about \$240 in British pounds.

Scotland Yard detectives later matched fingerprints on the gunman's note with Ray's, the Sketch said.

The way was cleared to return Ray when Britain dropped charges of entering the country on a forged passport and carrying an unlicensed gun. Ray had abandoned his fight against extradition earlier in the week, and the British Home Office said the extradition order was signed last night.

Ray was arrested in London two months and four days after King was killed by a single bullet as he stood on a motel balcony here.

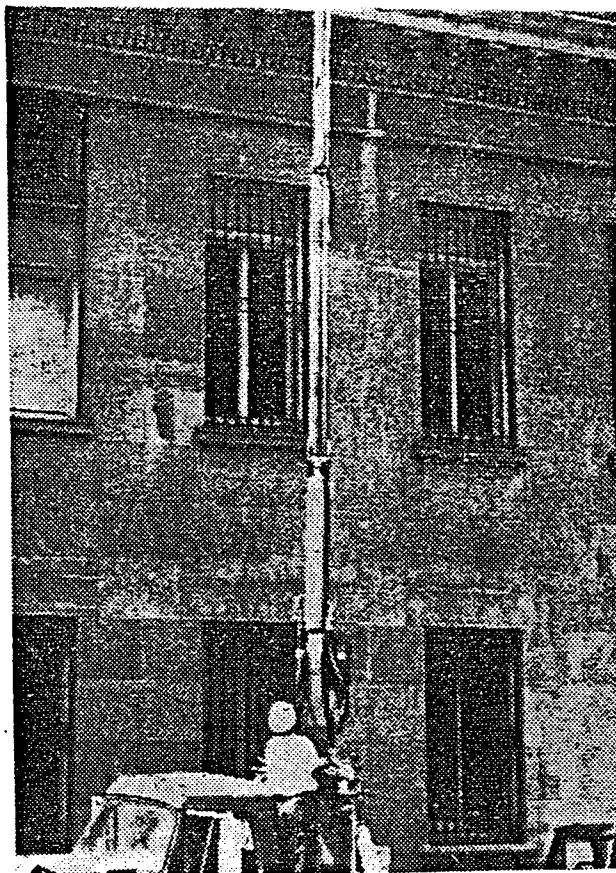
Ray's home until his trial for murder, expected to come in late September or early October, is a block of four air-conditioned, freshly painted cells on the third floor of the jail in downtown Memphis. This will be shared by his guards.

A report from the jailkeeper said the suite contains its own lavatory, a telephone and two television monitors. Closed-circuit television has been installed so Ray will be under 24-hour surveillance.

Quarter-inch steel plates have been placed over the cell windows. Without them, the windows would have a view across a 60-foot paved court into the office of the district attorney general in the county office building.

It is understood the telephone will be for the use of the guards, but it was expected that Ray would have access to it to forestall any contention he was being held incommunicado.

The trustees who usually oper-



—United Press International

Workmen put steel plates over a window at the Shelby County jail, presumably in the cell in which Ray will await trial.

Ray Trial Judge Issues News Coverage Curbs

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (UPI) — Criminal court judge Preston Battle, who was named today as judge in the murder trial of James Earl Ray, has issued a 10-point order restricting news coverage of the case.

The order forbids anyone connected with the case—attorneys and their assistants, employees of the jail-courthouse building where Ray is being held, and witnesses—from giving interviews or otherwise discussing it outside the courthouse or with anyone but lawyers connected with the case.

In announcing the order as he met with newsmen this morning, Sheriff William Morris said the "no publicity" rule was going into effect immediately following the news conference.

Battle ordered that all "entrance ways, corridors and approaches to courtrooms, offices and other rooms in the criminal courts building will be kept clear at all times for free access thereto by those using them in the course of their employment or those having business to transact therein."

It forbids

any type, and radio and sound equipment both in the building and on its parking lots and grounds. No photographs will be allowed of jurors and no sketches will be allowed in the courtroom.

Battle ordered searches made "of all persons seeking admission to the courtroom."

During court sessions, the order said, no one will be permitted to enter or leave the courtroom except at recess or in case of emergency. Ray always will be the last to enter the courtroom and the first to leave, it said.

Battle, 60, a native of Memphis, is a former assistant attorney general for Shelby County and was appointed judge of a division of Shelby County Criminal court in 1959.

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Ray Extradition Closer, British Drop 2 Charges

LONDON (AP) — Minor British charges against James Earl Ray were dropped today, bringing his extradition to the United States a step closer.

Home Secretary James Callaghan was expected within a few hours to sign the extradition order returning the 40-year-old escaped convict to the United States to face trial on a charge of murdering Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

The extradition order was issued by Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Frank Milton on July 2. Ray decided on Tuesday not to appeal against it, and the 15-day period for filing an appeal expired yesterday. The time of Ray's departure for the United States is a closely guarded secret. Unofficial reports said a U.S. Air Force transport was standing by at Northolt, a U.S. airbase west of London, to take the prisoner and an escort of U.S. marshals to Memphis, Tenn., where the Negro civil rights leader was shot April 4.

Hearing Is Brief

The two British charges on which Ray had been held since his arrest at London Airport on June 8 were dropped at the brief hearing in Bow Street Magistrate's Court, the theater for all the British legal processes concerning Ray.

The charges were using a forged Canadian passport, under the name of Ramon George Sneyd, and carrying a loaded gun for which he had no license.

Ray was not in court today.

Ray's American attorney, Arthur J. Hanes, arrived in London yesterday and complained that the U.S. Justice Department had refused to let him accompany Ray back to the United States. Hanes, a former mayor of Birmingham, Ala., said his client was afraid to be alone with Justice Department men.

"I don't know the basis of the fear," said the lawyer, "but he says it and he wants me to be present."

Hanes spent 45 minutes with Ray inside London's Wandsworth jail yesterday. But the lawyer said that in this conversation, as in others he had during a previous visit to London, it was impossible to get to the heart of things because British

Memphis would come when he is brought into one of the county's criminal courtrooms for arraignment, a procedure that normally takes only a few minutes.

Deputies yesterday took up guard positions in an alley behind the jail, at the jail's entrance in the criminal courts building and in the hallway leading to the sheriff's office. No one was admitted into these areas without special reason.

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Hanes said Ray waived appeal on the advice of Hanes "because he is innocent and wants to get back to the States as quickly as possible to prove it."

Memphis Rushes Work

Security arrangements are being rushed at the Shelby County jail in downtown Memphis. Ray will be lodged in an interior cell in the jail once he is returned.

His first public appearance in

brought into one of the county's criminal courtrooms for arraignment, a procedure that normally takes only a few minutes.

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W. H. HINGTON STAR IN 4 1968

Lawyer Arrives in Memphis, Expected to See Ray in Jail

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — James Earl Ray, placed behind the most elaborate security screen ever seen here, awaits the first meeting with his lawyer since being removed from a London jail.

The lawyer, Arthur Hanes of Birmingham, Ala., arrived by plane from New York shortly before midnight last night, quickly got into a car and drove to a downtown hotel escorted by six policemen.

Hanes told newsmen here he had talked briefly with Ray in London shortly before his client was handed over to United States authorities for the Thursday night flight to Memphis.

Ray in Third Floor

After being searched and passed through cordons of heavily-armed, helmeted sheriff's deputies, Hanes presumably will be admitted to the third-floor cell block where Ray, charged with the April 4 assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., is confined in the Shelby County Jail.

Quarter-inch steel plates cut off light and air from the windows, and the hum of newly-installed air conditioners provides a quiet background for the talks.

There is a telephone at hand, and in the corridor there is a sandbag-lined steel box—the receptacle for any bomb or explosive device that might be smuggled past all the guards and security.

Ray, arrested in London June 8, was taken to the jail just before dawn yesterday after a flight aboard a U.S. Air Force jet from Britain. Hanes, who caught a later flight to the United States, protested the decision that prevented him from accompanying Ray.

Date Not Yet Set

No date has been set for an arraignment for Ray, and Hanes is expected to work this out with Judge Preston Battle, who will preside at Ray's trial, and the prosecution. Ray must enter a plea at the arraignment.

It was learned that Judge Battle does not expect to set a trial date at the time of the arraignment, but will give opposing lawyers time to determine when they are ready.

Battle has laid down strict

ground rules for the trial, sharply limiting news and photo coverage and forbidding all the principals — and even employees of the court building — from making any comments about the case. A copy of this order had not been served on Hanes when he arrived in New York from London.

In an interview at Kennedy Airport in New York, Hanes alluded to "powerful forces at work" to divide Americans against themselves.

"It has been shown that there is such a thing as an international Communist conspiracy and

you must admit they are working in this country," he said.

Ray gave up his fight for extradition from Britain earlier in the week and his sudden flight back to the United States came within hours after the extradition order was signed.

In London, meanwhile, police said they had evidence Ray may have robbed a bank. They said the evidence is fingerprints on a "give me cash" note handed a bank teller.

The note was handed to a teller in the Trustee Savings Bank in London's Fulham District on June 4—two months to the day after King was killed. The man escaped with about 100 pounds—\$240—in five-pound notes.

When Ray was arrested four days later he had 60 pounds in five-pound notes. He also had just bought a ticket to Brussels.

A description of the robber given police by the bank manager matches Ray.

The evidence was turned up as Scotland Yard prepared a dossier in an attempt to track down any hint in London of conspiracy in King's assassination.

British detectives said they could find nothing to indicate Ray had any association with possible confederates, political contacts or anyone else.

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